

Reading objectives

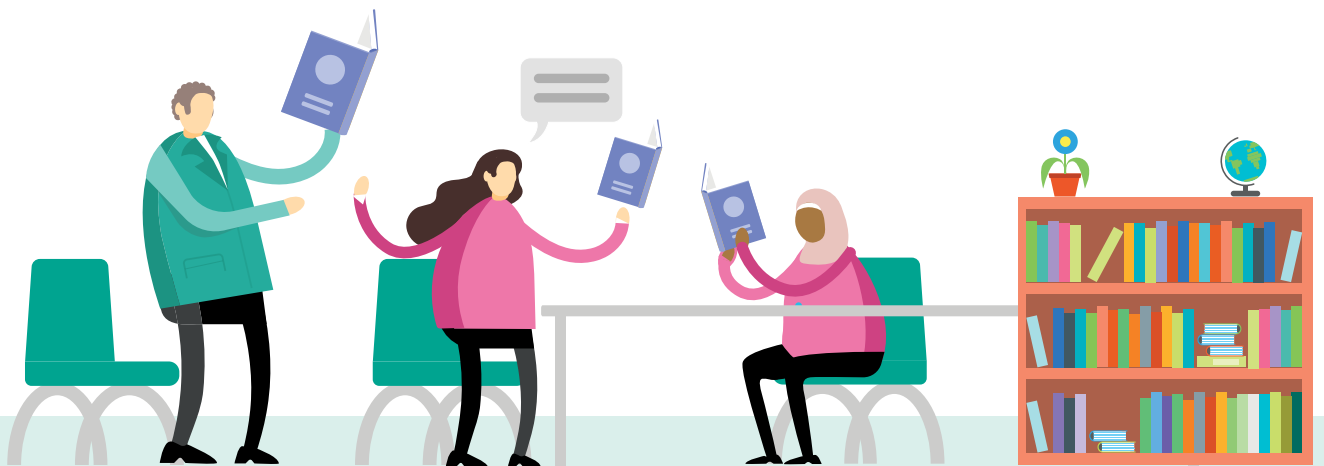
1C – Set clear objectives for the reading

What is a reading objective, and how do they support pupils' reading?

A reading objective is a clear goal which pupils are given before reading a text to guide their comprehension. These goals help pupils to comprehend texts as it makes reading more attentive and deliberate. They can also help to deepen understanding as they encourage active reading.

Goal setting also helps to foster metacognitive awareness, helping pupils to reflect on their own thinking during the reading process.²

Lots of these cognitive processes will happen effortlessly and automatically for skilled readers – by bringing these to the surface, and making them explicit, we can help pupils be more deliberate and intentional in applying the strategies going forward.



² *Metacognition and Self-regulated Learning Guidance Report, EEF, 2021, p8*

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What goals can teachers set to support pupils with comprehension?

Goal	Definition	Example
Scan the text for signposts	Set goals which direct pupils to find the signposts to guide their reading of the text eg discourse markers, punctuation, prepositions	<p>Example <i>signposting</i> goals for a History text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for clues which answer the question... • Look for conjunctions which show an alternative view • Look for dates regarding... • Look for the pronouns which tell us who is...
Find evidence	Set goals which ask pupils to find evidence which guides the reading process and their comprehension of the text	<p>Example <i>evidence</i> goals for an English Literature text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find three words which tell us... • How do we know that the character... • Which words are used to describe... • Find evidence to tell us that...
Take on a role	Define a role for the pupils to take on whilst reading the text and recall specific information after reading	<p>Example <i>taking on a role</i> goals for a Geography text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take on the character of a geographer, study the reasons for development and reach a conclusion about where to build the new houses
Understand reasons	Set goals which get pupils to use the text to explain why or how something is the way it is	<p>Example <i>understand reasons</i> goals for a Science text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why are likely to... • Explain why could turn into • Describe how could